(ix) Enlisting the co-operation of State Governments to educate road users before issue|renewal of driving licences.

(c) No, Sir.

Presence of Indian Armed Forces Personnel in Afghanistan

930. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian army personnel and also Airforce men are fighting along with Afghan Government forces against Afghan rebels;

(b) if so, what is the number of such Indian personnel;

(c) what is expenditure involved; and

(d) how long these forces are likely to remain in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indian Prisoners in Pakistan

931. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item captioned 'Fate of Indian Detenus in Pakistan Sealed' published in the Times of India, Bombay dated the April 1, 1989;

(b) if so, according to Government of India, how many Indian prisoners are in Pakistani Jails and since when;

(c) what steps Government have taken for thier releasing; and

(d) what is the response of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated number of Indian nationals in Pakistani jails is 1030. The precise date from which each individual has been detained is not known.

(c) and (d) Government are in continuous dialogue with the Government of Pakistan for the release and repatriation of Indian nationals in Pakistan Jails.

Non-payment of Salaries to Marine Officers by Foreign Ships

932. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blanket ban has been imposed on the merchant marine officers joining foreign ships, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that several shipping companies including the Mackinon Mackenizie and Co., the Hede Navigation and Ratnakar Shipping, have not paid salaries for several months to the marine officers;

(c) what are the reasons for imposing such a ban; and

(d) what action Government have taken to prevail upon such companies to pay the dues to the concerned officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Information has been received of non-payment of certain dues from the mentioned companies and the pendency of suits before the Courts. Payment of salaries of Marine Officers are governed by MUI Agreement between officer's union and shipping companies. Directorate General